



Moving Upstream: Expansion of Child Welfare Prevention Services

Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee

August 11, 2021

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Historic Challenges



- Increasing numbers in care
- Unmanageable caseloads for workers
- Inadequate funding
- Youth leaving care without permanency
- High use of residential, low use of community-based services/relatives
- Disproportionality and disparate outcomes
- Mandatory reporting/DCBS as one stop shop
- Stigma related to DCBS involvement



Opportunities to do Better...



- Unprecedented opportunity through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
- Increase in other funding for prevention
- National initiatives and support
- Community partnerships and support for prevention
- Equity work to address disproportionality and disparate outcomes
- Alignment of prevention work across agencies
- Community response models

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Total Impact of Family First Prevention Services Act

Programs utilizing Family First evidence-based practices:

- Family Preservation Programs (FPP)
- Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (KSTEP)
- Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START)

Statewide numbers served for all FFPSA services in SFY2020:

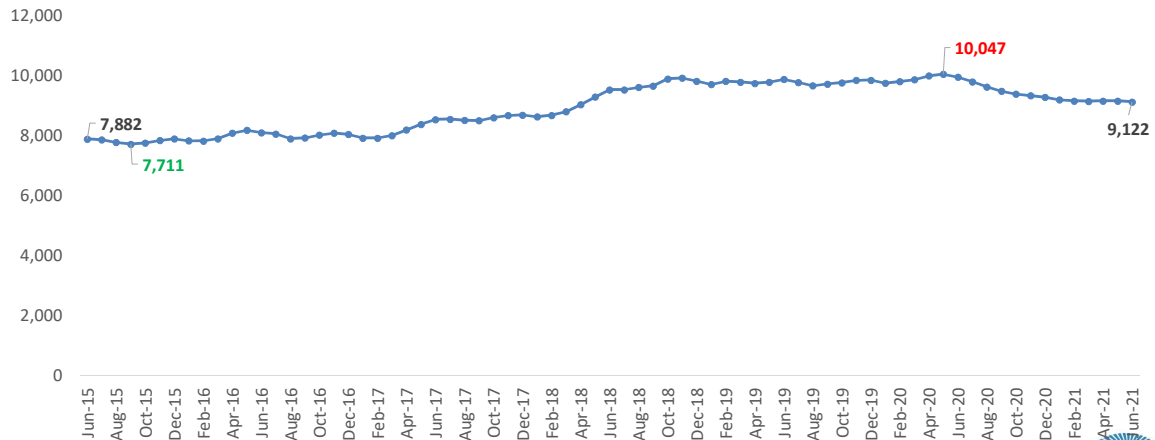
- Total families served: 3,367
- Total children served: 6,132
- Children remaining in the home at closure: 5,706
- Percentage of children remaining in the home at closure: 93%

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Children in the Custody of or Committed to the Cabinet

June 2015 – June 2021



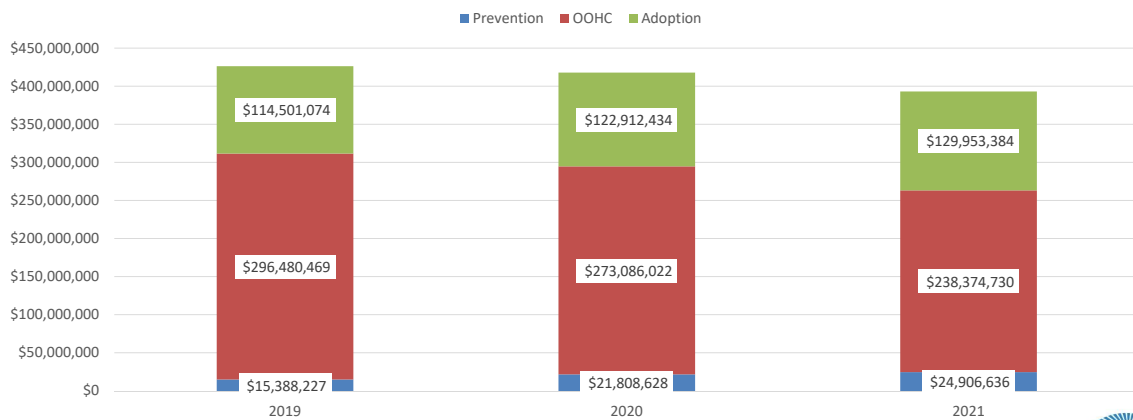
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Source: Foster Care Fact Sheets



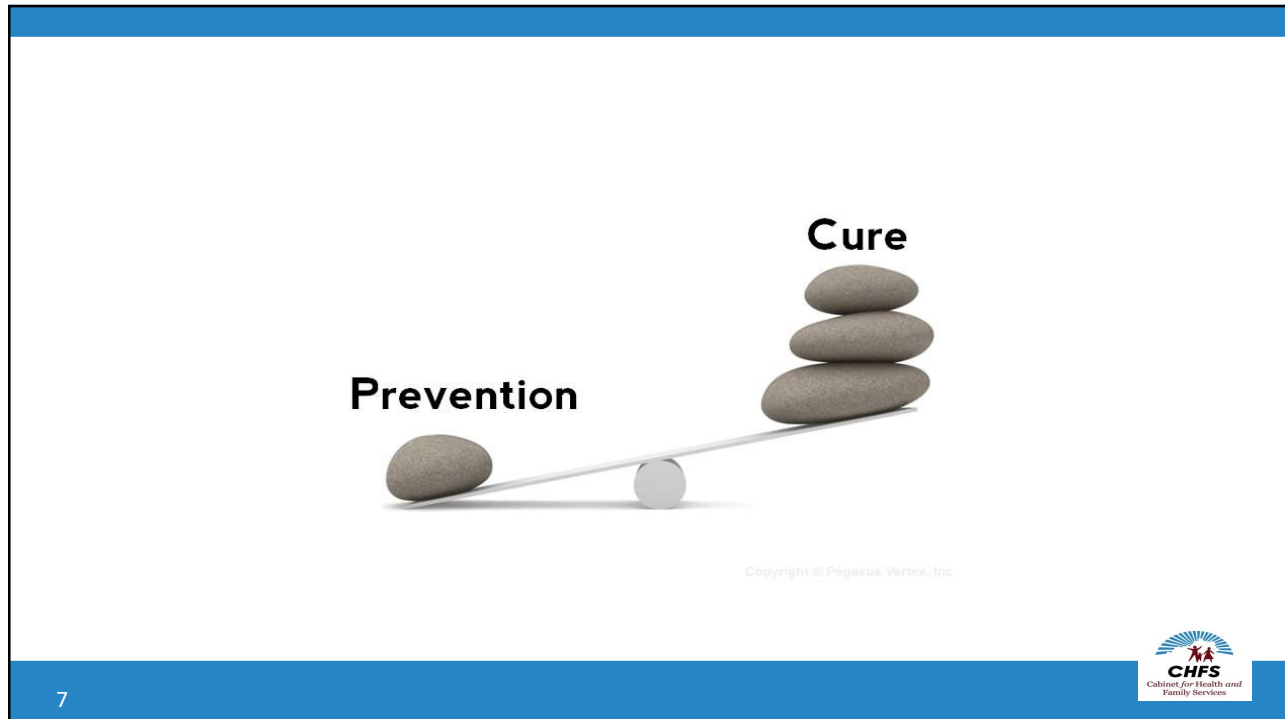
Prevention, Out of Home Care (OOHC), and Adoption Expenditures

SFY Expenditures 2019, 2020, and 2021



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Types of Prevention Efforts

- Primary prevention activities are directed at the general population and attempt to stop maltreatment before it occurs. All members of the community have access to and may benefit from these services.
- Secondary prevention activities with a high-risk focus are offered to populations that have one or more risk factors associated with child maltreatment.
- Tertiary prevention activities focus on families where maltreatment has already occurred and seek to reduce the negative consequences of the maltreatment and to prevent its recurrence.

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Planned Expansions Under Family First for SFY 2022

Additional funding (\$20M) appropriated for SFY 2022 will be used in the following ways:

- FPP expansion of an additional 25%
- KSTEP expansion to all counties in Salt River Trail Service Region and three counties in Cumberland Service Region
- Increased flex funds for families
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST) pilots
- Learning collaboratives to increase capacity to provide evidence-based practices in Kentucky

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Family Preservation Program (FPP)

- FPP is the largest Family First prevention program, serving almost 5,000 children in SFY 2020
- Available to families in every county in the state, addressing needs related to substance use, mental health, and in-home parenting skills
- 93% of children remain in the home at time of closure, and 92% are still in the home after 6 months
- A 25% expansion will ensure there are no waiting lists for these services anywhere in the state

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Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (KSTEP)

- KSTEP began in 2017, serving only four counties in the Northeastern Service Region
- Expanded to serve four additional counties at the beginning of SFY 2020 and to all 15 counties in the region by the end of SFY 2020
- Expanded to three counties in Salt River Trail Service Region in SFY 2021
- In SFY2020, KSTEP served 202 families and 380 children. At closure, 93% of these children remained safely in their home (356 children avoided entry into care)
- Long term goal is for KSTEP to be available in every region in the state

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Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Pilots

- MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment for youth with high-risk behaviors related to substance use or mental health needs
- DCBS partnered with Medicaid and three providers on a three-year MST pilot that began July 1, 2021 (one contract executed, two others to be executed in the fall)
- High success rate with youth who often end up in highest levels of care
- Pilot will serve families in Jefferson, Northern Kentucky, and Central Kentucky

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Flex Funds - Concrete Supports for Families

- Flex funds included in all Family First programs will be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 per family (maximum)
- Multiple research studies show that family income is a predictor of entry into care. Families living in poverty are significantly more likely to become involved with the child welfare system
- The provider determines whether there is a need for use of flex funds



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Expanded Primary and Secondary Prevention Efforts

- A small portion of the \$20M appropriated for prevention and supplemental Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) federal funds will be used for:
 - Community response pilots
 - Parent engagement meetings in additional counties
 - Increase in-home service provision under Community Collaborations for Children
 - Client assistance funds for CCC families
 - Creation of prevention collaborative
 - Thriving Families, Safer Children

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Community Response

- Less than half of reports to DCBS meet criteria for any type of service or response
- Reports to DCBS that do not meet criteria for assessment or services would be referred to a community-based agency to offer supports or resources to the family either directly or through Kynect resources
- Overall goal is to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect
- Other states are utilizing partnerships with Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) or other community-based agencies for this purpose

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Challenges

- Consolidated Appropriations Act temporarily increased federal reimbursement rate for Family First prevention services to 100% through September 30, 2021
- Three quarters remaining to utilize additional \$20M appropriation
- Historically, programs need three to six months to scale up
- Providers have experienced recent challenges with hiring qualified, credentialed staff
- Request for proposals now posted will lead to new contracts this fall

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Questions?



For questions or information related to this presentation,
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